

Frequently Asked Questions

Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park

Where is the dog park?

It is located in a gated area accessible only by driving to 8725 Fall Creek Road on the north side of the state park. It is not reachable from the main park entrance because of its location on the north side of Fall Creek, and will not impact other visitor activities inside the park.

How big is dog park?

The dog park has three separately fenced play areas. Platoon Run, closest to Fall Creek Road and with about 3.6 acres, has a few large trees for shade and some woods at the west end. Herrin Hill, about 1.3 acres in the middle of the dog park, is mostly open grass with some shade. Brigade Landing includes a pond and rugged, wooded “adventure” area for exploration, and is about 5 acres. We may open a separate area in Platoon Run or Herrin Hill for small dogs, but that will not be decided until we determine interest in/demand for separate areas.

What amenities does the dog park have?

Initially Herrin Hill will be open for dogs of all sizes with a water station, benches and waste stations with bags. Platoon Run has a water station, benches and waste stations. It also has a shelter, which may eventually be rentable. A portable restroom will be placed in the parking lot for the time being.

What areas of the dog park are now open?

Herrin Hill, the smallest of the three areas at about 1.3 acres, opened on Labor Day Weekend, 2013. Platoon Run at about 3.5 acres opened in October 2013 with an official dedication. We have additional preparation to complete in Brigade Landing, and it will open in 2014 and 2015.

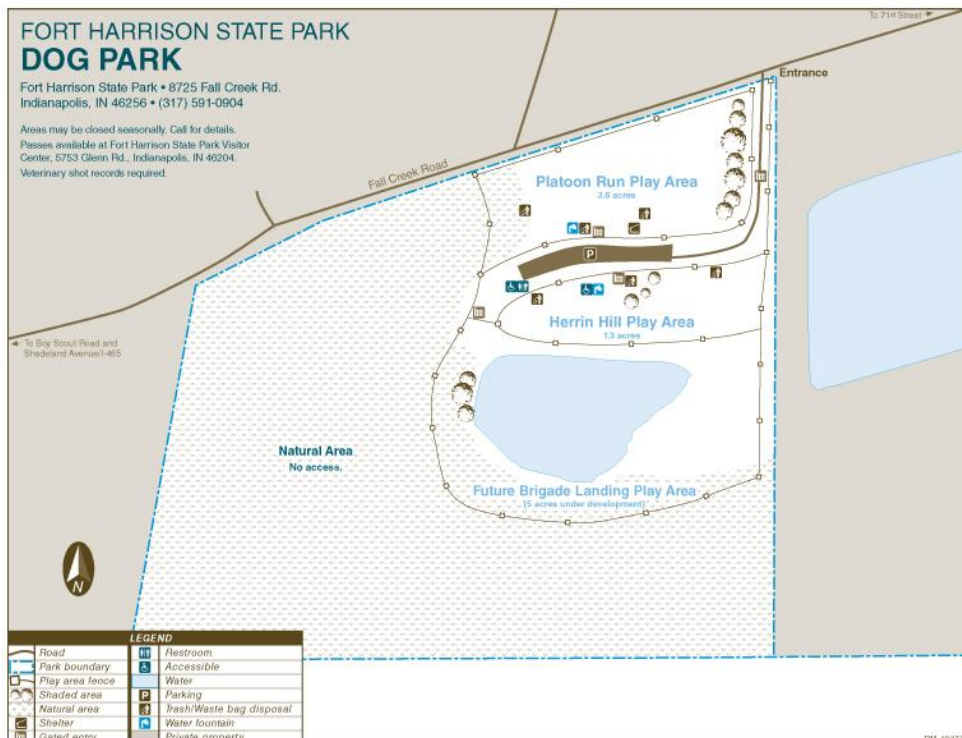
How much does it cost and how does access work?

A dog park tag for an individual dog, which should be placed on the dog’s collar, is \$75/year, and it is good from January 1 – December 31. There is no discount for additional dogs. There will mostly likely be an additional fee for access to Brigade Landing (the pond), but that will probably not take effect until 2015. Each owner/family will be provided with

ONE access pass that will provide entrance through the main gate and access to Herrin Hill (for now) and to Platoon Run regardless of the number of dogs for which tags are purchased. Replacement tags/passes if lost are \$15.00. We may make the determination to keep one area open and the other closed for maintenance during periods of the year. The access card will not provide admission through the park gate for other activities such as hiking, fishing or interpretive programs. Daily admission or an annual pass will be required for entrance into the rest of the park

Where can I purchase my tag/pass?

Tags and the access pass can be purchased at the park office at 5753



Glenn Road (Enter at E 59th Street and N. Post Road), Indianapolis, IN 46216, from 8:30am-4:00pm Monday-Friday. You must provide copies of current veterinary vaccination records for rabies, parvovirus, distemper and bordetella and must complete and sign the dog park annual membership application, which can be found online on Fort Harrison's webpage at www.stateparks.IN.gov/2982.htm. Membership applications are also available in hard copy at the park office.

What are the dog park rules?

Dog park rules and etiquette are posted at the entrance to each play area, and copies are available as part of the annual dog park membership application mentioned above. When you sign the membership application, you also sign indicating that you agree to abide by the dog park rules.

How many tags/passes are you selling?

We sold a limited number of tags/passes initially for the Herrin Hill play area, and do not have an upper limit on passes at this time, although that may change. We are currently gauging usage and interactions and determine if we need to make any changes.

How did you select the play area names?

We held a contest to name the three play areas. All of the names have ties with the state park's history. "Platoon and "Brigade" are terms related to the size of military units, and Fort Harrison State Park was part of a military base for nearly 100 years. The Herrin's were one of the earliest settlers of the area that is now the state park.

The dog park has been dedicated later this year in honor of the Indiana Conservation Officer K-9 Teams who serve and protect Indiana's citizens and natural resources. Memorial benches have been placed in the dog park to honor the first two Indiana K-9 officers, Judge and Journey, and their respective handlers Colonel Scotty Wilson and Officer Jeff Milner.

The access on Fall Creek Road might be challenging. Do you have plans for an access lane?

We would like to see that happen, and will be talking with the appropriate authorities to work towards that.

Is a dog park compatible with the mission of Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs?

Providing outdoor recreation opportunities and managing and conserving our natural and cultural resources are at the heart of our mission. A dog park is not something we are likely to develop at other state parks, but the urban nature of Fort Harrison and the isolation of this piece of land from the rest of the park make it an ideal location for a dog park. We see lots of people walking their dogs on trails in the park, and know that dog parks are popular and successful in urban park systems elsewhere. New activity in this area will also help limit vandalism and unauthorized access.

How will wildlife that may use the area be impacted?

Evaluating the impact on wildlife is a part of our review process for any proposed facility or site development. There are no identified threatened or endangered species in the area. Removal of shrubs and small trees will certainly impact the amount of cover for some species, but a significant amount of cover will remain. There is, of course, a possibility that rabbits, squirrels and other small mammals will be impacted when the dogs begin to use the facility. It is our expectation that dog owners will maintain close watch of their pets to limit this impact. As dog park usage grows, wildlife will adapt to using areas outside the fenced perimeter. We will be developing interpretive signage to help dog park users understand the types of wildlife and plants that may be seen in the area.

How can we share our comments and questions?

We look forward to hearing from dog owners about features, amenities and rules. Let us know what concerns or other questions you have. You can share your comments and questions at the park office, join the Fort Harrison State Park Dog Park Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/501700879924441/ or email them to our north regional manager Carl Lindell at clindell@dnr.IN.gov or to parklakeinfo@dnr.IN.gov.

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www.stateparks.IN.gov/2982.htm

